



## REDUCING REOFFENDING – 10 BY 20

### STRATEGIC POLICY PANEL

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### **Background:**

The State Government's public safety and community protection focus has contributed to escalating demand on custodial correctional services over the past decade.

Since 2004, there has been growth in prisoner numbers nationwide. South Australia has experienced a 67% increase in prisoner numbers over this period. The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction to experience faster growth.

Growth in South Australia's imprisonment rate has increased at twice the national rate over the past decade and repeat offenders are responsible for a large proportion of SA crime.

Nearly three quarters of those currently in custody have experienced a previous period of incarceration. This imposes high social costs to community and places a substantial burden on the broader criminal justice system.

Additionally, like many jurisdictions across the nation, South Australia sees a significant overrepresentation of aboriginal people in the criminal justice system.

It is proposed that SA Government set a 'Reducing Reoffending' target which seeks to reduce reoffending by 10% by 2020 (10 by 20) and establish an Strategic Policy Advisory Panel as a way of driving change and promoting innovation.

##### **Purpose:**

The Strategic Policy Panel will be established to investigate best practice in correction services policy to identify strategies that reduce rates of reoffending and promote rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes.

The Strategic Policy Panel will provide long term strategic direction on action to drive reductions in reoffending (10% by 2020) for individuals in contact with the justice system in South Australia.

The group will provide policy direction on evidence to support a three-year strategic reform plan to achieve the target.

The policy direction articulated by the Panel will be grounded in evidence based decision making and will advise the Minister on best practice to lead to a nation leading policy regime.

The Strategic Policy Panel will be established for four months with the view to have Cabinet endorse the Panel's policy document by 28 November 2016.

##### **Areas of Focus:**

Research indicates that a complex interconnected web of factors influences the propensity of a released prisoner to reoffend. Matters of focus for consideration of the panel include:

- **Housing**  
Support to access appropriate accommodation that in certain circumstances is supported can lead to a more stable and successful transition back into mainstream society.
- **Employment**  
Steady work, or even the prospect of steady work, appears to have strong links to breaking the cycle of reoffending
- **Competency**  
Improving the levels of understanding of policy impact, particularly in relation to indigenous people, within the Correctional Services system and applying this understanding to the needs of newly released individuals can improve outcomes.
- **Access to Support Services**  
Too often, prisoners are released into the community with little more than a bag for their belongings and a bus ticket. Implementing wrap-around support services promises to have a positive impact on reducing reoffending.
- **Completion of in Custody Programs**  
Supporting prisoners with the right in custody programs that better prepare them for release should lead to improved outcomes and a smoother reintegration into society.

It is intended that the Panel will be focusing on examining these matters, though will also be open to considering other opportunities that may reduce reoffending. The panel will provide advice on which areas of focus should be prioritized and which programs within these areas achieve the best cost-benefit outcomes.

### **Support and Administrative Matters:**

#### Reporting:

- The Strategic Policy Panel will report directly to the South Australian Government through the Minister for Correctional Services Government.
- A Policy Report and Action Plan are due November 2016.
- Meetings will occur monthly and be held at DCS Head Office, 400 King William Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000. A small number of meetings, forums and associated works are planned to be scheduled in addition to the regular meetings.
- Pending availability of Panel Members, we are aiming for the first meeting to be held in late August. Other engagement of panel members may be required

#### Support:

- DCS will provide secretariat support to the Panel and regular status reports over the four months of the Panels engagement to the Minister for Correctional Services. DCS secretariat will also assist in the preparation of a comprehensive report of the Panel's recommendations.

#### Future Timelines:

- The report will inform a policy document and action plan that will be released in early 2017.

### **Membership of the Panel:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Strategic Policy ise</b>
Mr Warren Mundine AO	Chair of the Panel	Business and Aboriginal
Hon Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO	Former South Australian Premier and Social Justice Advocate	Social justice issues
Mr Mal Hyde AO APM OSTJ	Former South Australian Police Commissioner	Law and Order and Policing
Ms Nikki Govan	Deputy Chair of Business SA	Business
Emeritus Prof Anne Edwards AO	Former Vice Chancellor of Flinders University	Sociology and Women's Advocate
Ms Amanda Blair	Former News Limited Journalist	Media Engagement and Women's Advocate
Mr Michael O'Connell APM	Commissioner for Victim Rights	Victim Rights